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Newsletter

Faculty Senate

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# Faculty Senate Newsletter, April 2011

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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# LSU FACULTY SENATE

## Monthly Newsletter

April 30, 2011



### *President's Message*

In my last "welcome" column, I addressed the question of Louisiana universities after the economic crisis, suggesting a variety of adjustments that would increase morale and promote economic justice in institutions that reward fashion and momentary stellar performances more often than they recognize adventurous dissent or long-term projects. Although not inexhaustible, the topic of higher education after our present calamities merits a bit more consideration, especially with regard to structural changes that might advance our institution even in the midst of economic distress.

Having commenced its career as the cultural equivalent of a fortification, LSU has always had, if not a stiff, then a stiffening administration. It puts the starch into anyone who wants to unbutton a collar. My experience over the last few years has been that many members of the administration are persons of exceptionally good will and even idealism but are stymied, confused, or otherwise unprepared to deal with, let alone revise, the operational as well as structural blockades that confront the well-meaning manager. The top-down, command-line structure of Louisiana higher education is surely one of the "stiffening" agents, but there are many ways that individual campuses can create more options for those whose talents are not served by enclosure in extant "silos," whether departmental or college-level or fiscal or of any other sort.

One challenge will be the revision of evaluation procedures so as to allow subordinates greater latitude in the expression of dissenting opinions. The number of persons punished for unpopular opinions in Louisiana may be exaggerated, yet it is unrealistic to imagine that, over the long term, the present evaluation scheme, which stresses responsiveness to commands and fulfillment of specified duties and which hinges on assessments by supervisors and superiors, will encourage daring thinking. Might we not add an evaluation item to the annual assessment of associate deans asking how many times they ardently disagreed with or corrected their superiors?

Another, larger possibility might be the redirection of Deans' power. In recent months, we have heard much about the pertinence of Deans to the on-the-ground management and stimulation of institutions, yet we have seen little decentralization of the power that, since the 1990s, has been congealing in Academic Affairs offices across the country. Nor have we seen the development of mechanisms that allow faculty to empower their Deans as they fight for their respective constituencies against a state government that would like to fix all authority in a single "superboard." One strategy might be to de-couple both faculty members and Deans from their subject matter and allow the alleged "market" to operate. If a Dean in an Engineering School needs humanists to help enlighten his largely foreign student body about western culture, why not allow that Dean to bid for the services of a humanities faculty member for a period of time? If a chemist would like to better secondary education, why not allow him or her to apply for a short stay in the School of Education? Loosening up the discipline-locked affiliations around Louisiana campuses would add the flexibility that administrations always seek, would introduce markets in disciplines where there are none, and would encourage middle-management persons such as Deans to strike out in bold new ways.

### **SACS President Meets With Faculty, Issues Warning to State Officials**

The group formerly meeting under the banner of "The Alexandria Summit Meetings" and now convening as the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative conferred for the third time on April 16th on the campus of Louisiana State University in Alexandria. With the help of the statewide chapter of the AAUP, the "Collaborative" was able to attract no less a guest speaker than Belle Wheelan, [President of SACSCOC](#) (the Southern Association of College and Schools Committee on Colleges), who addressed and dialogued with conferees for no less than ninety minutes and who responded to assertive questioning from disgruntled academic professionals. Wheelan explained the interpretation and application of the SACS criteria, heard from campus representatives who thought that the standards relating to faculty governance were routinely violated, and explained methods for filing complaints, seeking redress, and attracting enforcement. Wheelan, for example, explained that SACS can send a delegation to a member campus at any time when there is suspicion of misconduct or improper application of SACS regulations. Wheelan's visit has already borne fruit. Immediately prior to her arrival, she sent state government officials a [stern warning](#) that deterioration of library facilities, including the database resource LOUIS, might trigger accreditation problems and, with that, a blockade on federal funding or NCAA sports participation. Immediately after the visit and upon hearing faculty complaints, Wheelan fired off a sharp letter to the heads of the four higher education systems, warning them that failure to represent the full range of faculty views or obstruction of faculty access to SACS investigators could lead to dire consequences.



### **Payday for New Manship Dean Supports State Emphasis on Four-Year Education**

Many professors have expressed skepticism about the fixation of the Jindal administration and the current Louisiana legislature with the baccalaureate degree. Many have doubted that a "four-year" education alone will create the proficient and highly paid workforce that is allegedly at the top of the governor's agenda. The evidence now seems to refute this skepticism insofar as the Manship School has opted for a dean without the encumbrance of a post-graduate degree and has, moreover, demonstrated that a standard B.A. can attract a \$225K salary while holders of doctoral degrees remain pegged at a fraction of that sum. So lavish a support for the first-degree workforce will place a heavy burden on the new Manship Dean to show his support for faculty advancement movements on campus.

### **Movement to Refashion LSU as Charter Institution Ignores Facts**

Certain institutional chefs have stirred up quite a foamy broth about the autonomy of institutions and the economic efficiency that allegedly result. Comparable to LSU's interest in "change, focus, and autonomy" in the world of K-12 public schools is the "charter school" movement; indeed, some have even suggested that LSU style itself as a "charter university." Our contacts in the K-12 world tell us that, in the last six months, two New Orleans area charter schools have gone bankrupt. Worse, those academies have left the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) holding the bag for \$650,000.00 in overdue payment to retirement funds. Expensive litigation is expected. Meanwhile, LSU is facing a \$10,000,000.00 unfunded mandate to cover the gaping hole in TRSL's funding, money which could well go to better retirement benefits, salary increases, or improved support for research and University operations.

### **Common Course Numbering Underway**

Act 356 of the 2009 Louisiana Legislature stipulates the establishment of a statewide common course numbering system by which courses with similar content at diverse universities will receive a standard numerical designation and will transfer readily from one institution to another. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council has created a statewide committee to work out the details, which will be a challenging task given the SACS requirement that faculty at individual institutions should control curriculum and admissions requirements. The committee, of which Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope is a member, began its work with an extended meeting at the Learning Center of Rapides Parish on April 18th. At this first meeting, the committee resolved to explain the complexity of the task to state officials and also to show good will and material progress by beginning the articulation of the fifty courses most frequently transferred. Consultations with multi-campus, disciplinary-specific groups will begin in a few weeks.

## ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Mimi Ruebsamen, Executive Director, Employment & Employment Processing

Despite the advent of the laptop, palm pilot, iPad, Nook and all manner of electronic devices which give faculty, students, and university professionals alike instant access to information, the university continues to produce an impressive stream of print media. On the operational side of things, few people may understand how heavily the university relies on print better than Mimi Ruebsamen. Executive Director of Employment & Employment Processing, Ruebsamen facilitates the tenure



review process, a procedure which requires departments with faculty up for promotion to submit four copies of each faculty member's review packet. "In the end it's huge," Mimi says of the thick review packets her office receives and distributes, in heavy crates, to the appropriate review levels.

This is not to say that Ruebsamen or her office is stuck in the past as the custodian of a burdensome tradition that threatens to crush the weary administrator under reams of paper. Quick to smile and laugh, Ruebsamen seems like just the person to bring LSU's employment process into the twenty first century. On the tenure review process front, Ruebsamen has been working closely with the Faculty Senate and administration to move

to an online format for updating CVs and routing packets for review. Although implementing such a system is not as straightforward as may seem Ruebsamen stresses that she wants to make sure that "it has all the functionality that everyone would like" an online CV database would be a boon to faculty and reviewing departments.

Ruebsamen has also played a key role in stopping the tenure clock for tenure-track faculty caught in unusual and difficult circumstances that take them away from their academic responsibilities. In a nut shell, the initiative allows for cases such as mothers needing to be home with newborns or faculty needing to take care of ailing family members without worrying how these actions might impact their chances to earn tenure within time constraints. Likewise, the flexibility of the program helped faculty affected when Hurricane Katrina struck in August of 2005.

Although Ruebsamen has had a lot to do with the promotion and tenure process at LSU she quips at one point "I feel like I lived PS 36," her duties are much more expansive. On the employment side, *"There's no other place like it, everything is so colorful here."*

Ruebsamen oversees everything from recruiting to advertising, to screening of civil service applicants, to advising on search committee protocol. In addition, Ruebsamen helps to set academic policy at the university, which, beyond promotion and tenure, comprises sabbaticals, honorifics, endowed chairs, and ethics interpretations.

While shouldering so many responsibilities at once might seem like plenty to most people, Ruebsamen has the energy and wherewithal for several people. An amateur photographer, Ruebsamen especially enjoys photographing her two children Anna Kate and Mason. Moreover, having already received degrees from LSU in Psychology and Human Resource Education, Ruebsamen is currently working towards completing a PhD in Human Resource Education. Although she has not chosen her research topic, Ruebsamen is understandably interested in the balance that working professionals must find between their work lives and the many other hats they must wear each day.

Like many of the administrators who make up the nuts and bolts of the LSU community, Ruebsamen is home grown, having spent the majority of her life in Baton Rouge's charming Garden District. "We are Baton Rouge all the way through," she jokes. And like many of the people who are such an integral part of the LSU community and of the state as a whole, Ruebsamen voices the common opinion that few places offer the wayward person in search of a home as much as Louisiana does. "There's no other place like it," Ruebsamen says simply, "everything is so colorful here."

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### Commissioner Purcell Charms Faculty Senate, Startles Budget Bosses

New Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell visited the LSU Faculty Senate during its April meeting. In the first on-campus appearance by a Commissioner since the retirement of former Commissioner Sally Clausen, Purcell evidenced not only a command of the strange facts about Louisiana higher education but also a remarkable statistical-based humor seldom seen in the upper echelon of collegiate administration. In one dry critique of the Jindal administration's preoccupation with baccalaureate degrees and graduate rates, Purcell noted that even drunkards comply with safety regulations when they hold bachelor's degrees and that the baccalaureate reduces the chance of incarceration. Pleased to report that college degree production in Louisiana had increased by 14%, Purcell encouraged faculty members to support proposals relating to freedom in the use of self-generated funds. Purcell evidenced some wise skepticism about the call for workforce development, wondering exactly "what is a workforce-ready community" and expressing concern that Louisiana ranks sixth in the nation with respect to job availability for those who have not graduated from high school and fifth in the nation for the production of jobs that require only a high-school diploma but forty-seventh in the nation with respect to jobs calling for graduate degrees. Purcell did drop one small bombshell—a smart bomb with so understated an initial impact that it was barely noticed until the next day. That pronouncement: That System management boards such as the LSU System might reallocate the state appropriation according to different formulae than those used by the Regents—a story which even creationist would allow must evolve a long way before it comes to a conclusion.

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### TAF Riding Wave of Ticket Renewals

The Tiger Athletic Foundation reports good news with respect to athletics-derived revenues. TAF estimates that football ticket renewals are already at the 99% level, suggesting that it might be better to live purple and to love gold, rather than the reverse, as advertised in LSU's latest (only partially interpretable) slogan.

### Marzilli, King to Develop Smoking Policy

Readers may have heard of initiatives among students to reduce the volume of side-stream, second-hand smoke wafting through our campus. Those readers may not be aware that similar initiatives are already in the works in the Faculty Senate. In response to two pending resolutions, one regulating the distance from buildings at which smoking may occur and one establishing a tobacco-free campus, Senator Luigi Marzilli and Executive Committee member Joan King are developing a set of smoking rules that can mesh with existing university policies on building use and safety.

### LSU System Bags Big Settlement

The last several *Newsletter* stories concerning LSU litigation have brought bad financial news such as the ten-million dollar payout over the co-generation plant debacle. This month, LSU legal beagles have sniffed out some black ink, hounding out a three-million dollar settlement from Johnson Controls. Beginning in 1998, Johnson Controls has been providing LSU System campuses with devices intended to control energy expenditures. Alas, the savings have not materialized. Although this big payday is a victory for LSU barristers, the problem originated in standard-issue LSU negligence (combined with a bit of overweening). As the LSU Board of Supervisors resolution notes, "at the time these contracts were entered no one at the facilities had the expertise to effectively and independently evaluate the economics and all underlying assumptions in the contracts' savings formulas, and the various campuses did not obtain expert outside evaluation of the contract," yet assorted wise administrators plunged straight ahead into a deal that has now dripped down the drain. Full details of the gaff can be read on the [LSU System web site](#) and then scroll down to page 430.

### Hires Proposes Repository Committee

Although its sesquicentennial celebration came and went with barely a Tiger meow, LSU continues to compile a substantial, indeed gigantic volume of research. Many if not most institutions provide either an archive or an "institutional repository" that receives and records the composite output of their campus faculties, thereby preserving the research, the culture, and the institutional record of those institutions until the twelfth of never and maybe even until the thirteenth of that same distant month. Now one of our forward thinking librarians, Will Hires, has petitioned the Faculty Senate to establish an ad hoc committee on an institutional repository, a project to which the Senate has lent its enthusiastic blessing. Hires has assembled a multi-departmental, multi-college committee that has already begun planning for "a place wherein all of the scholarly and research output of this academic institution can be collected and preserved for the benefit and collaborative needs of the campus community." Identified on the [Faculty Senate web site](#), the members of Hires's committee invite recommendations from the LSU community.

### LSU United Establishes Legislative Contact Team

LSU United continues its push toward recognition through the establishment of a Legislative Contact Team. Meeting regularly with expert advisors from the Louisiana Association of Educators, and reaching out to faculty members statewide, which is headed by Dominique Homberger and which features John Protevi as a spokesman, the team is creating a network of legislative contacts who are eager to hear faculty concerns and to benefit from the huge battalion of experts who make up Louisiana higher education.



## REDSTICK RESTAURANT REVIEW: MONJUNIS HIGHLAND

By Carl Freedman

Though Italy indisputably produces one of the world's great cuisines—within Europe only France plays in the same culinary league—those who have grown up in Italian or Italian-American homes often comment that the food of their youth is not necessarily well represented in Italian restaurants, at least those that typically flourish in the English-speaking world. I don't know exactly why this should be, but I can make a few guesses. For example, the tangy, slightly "processed" taste that characterizes authentic marinara or bolognese sauce requires many hours of simmering, preferably from right after breakfast until dinner time—and you have to wonder how many busy restaurant kitchens take the trouble these days.

It's perhaps not surprising, then, that really excellent Italian food is, in my experience, more likely to be found in quiet, old-fashioned, family-oriented restaurants than in the places that feature higher pretensions, prices, and decibel levels. To put it in terms of the geography of New York City, I've nearly always found the Italian food better in the sleepy neighborhood restaurants of Lower Manhattan (especially, though not only, in what used to be Little Italy) than in the trendy, noisy places of Midtown where you can spot celebrities while leafing through a wine list that comes as a bound volume and wondering how you're ever going to be able to afford the bill. Or to put it another way: I would hesitate to sit down in an Italian restaurant if it didn't look as though it could be the setting for a scene in a mob movie where someone gets whacked.

Of the places here in Baton Rouge, Monjunis Highland is the Italian restaurant that most reminds me of the kind of place where Michael Corleone could enjoy some veal parmigiana and lethal gunfire with the Turk and Captain McCluskey—not, of course, that I've actually encountered any shooting there. The central, outstanding specialty is the red sauce, which, with or without meat, is absolutely delicious, though a bit sweeter than usual. Unsurprisingly, you can enjoy this sauce in a number of different ways: for instance with such familiar main dishes as lasagna, baked ravioli, or—simplest and perhaps best of all—spaghetti topped by the restaurant's justly famous meatballs. But you can also get the red stuff as a dipping sauce for excellent appetizers like fried calamari or toasted cheese ravioli—or the homemade meatballs topped with melted cheese ("meatball nachos," as they call them).

Even if you're not in the mood for red sauce, there are still a number of good choices. The muffalettas, for example, are some of the best I've had this side of Decatur Street in New Orleans, and are also among the restaurant's best deals. Though all the prices at Monjunis are modest—even the veal dishes cost less than twenty bucks—the truly budget-conscious might try a whole muffaletta for \$13.99; unless you're eating a good deal more than you probably ought to, you should have enough left over to make a lunch and a snack at home. If you want a (slightly) lighter dish, try the fried crawfish salad, which will unambiguously remind you that you are, after all, in southern Louisiana.

I do have a few complaints. Many of us strongly prefer whole-wheat pasta to the white kind for reasons of both taste and nutrition; and I don't see why Monjunis can't provide it as an option, however sharp a departure from Italian tradition it may represent. Speaking of Italian tradition, none is more to be cherished than excellent red wine. Though the wine list here is (barely) adequate, it would be nice if it were just a bit more extensive. I would especially like to see plenty of nebbiolo and negroamaro wines—two Italian grape varieties responsible for some of the best wines in the world, but surprisingly difficult to find in American restaurants. Still, these are relatively minor objections, and my recommendation is generally enthusiastic.

Monjunis Highland is located at 7343 Highland Road; the phone number is (225) 302-7407, though reservations are unnecessary. Surprisingly—in view of its homey ethos—Monjunis is actually a small franchise operation, with six other locations in Louisiana (including one at 711 Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge). My comments on Monjunis Highland should be broadly applicable to the other Monjunis restaurants, whose offerings are similar though not exactly identical.

## GUEST COLUMN

### The Freedom to Govern

By Stephen Rushing, University of Southeastern Louisiana

The principles of academic freedom in teaching and research have their origins in 19th-century German law and practice. In the early part of the 20th century, the AAUP adopted these principles to protect the speech and work of all academics in the United States. The AAUP 1915 Declaration of Principles on Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure provided that universities "should be an intellectual experimental station, where new ideas may germinate and where the fruit, though still distasteful to the community as a whole, may be allowed to ripen until finally, perchance, it may become a part of the accepted intellectual food of the nation or of the world." Through the evolution of these principles, the AAUP intellectual experimental stations of 1940, 1966 and 1994 would later protect new ideas, distasteful to some administrators and governing boards, allowed to season until perhaps they might become a part of the accepted policies that define universities and university systems. With the AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles, the academic freedom to participate in university governance was born.

The neonate 1940 Statement of Principles described faculty members as "officers" of an educational institution but remained silent on their specific role. The 1966 Statement described their role in institutional governance but did not speak to the rights and freedoms bestowed faculty. In May of 1994, the AAUP promulgated the following statement, "the protection of the academic freedom of faculty members in addressing issues of institutional governance is a prerequisite for the practice of governance unhampered by fear of retribution" and appears in the Association's statement On the Relationship of Faculty Governance to Academic Freedom. The statement included the following, "More generally, experienced faculty committees... must be free to bring to bear on the issues at hand not merely their disciplinary competencies, but also their first-hand understanding of what constitutes good teaching and research generally, and of the climate in which those endeavors can best be conducted." The latter dimension of "climate" was expanded: "The academic freedom of faculty members includes the freedom to express their views on matters having to do with their institution and its policies... grounds for thinking an institutional policy desirable or undesirable must be heard and addressed if the community is to have confidence that its policies are appropriate."

How does this freedom affect faculty in the state of Louisiana? Institutions and their climates are defined by their policies. And while we continue to experience top-down management decrees that have a direct effect on academic freedom, tenure, teaching, research and the climate in which these survive (e.g., removal of faculty from classes for grading too hard, Senator Ben Nevers' sponsored legislation, Act 356, in 2009 which established the guidelines ([continued on page 4](#)))

## Updates to Commencement Regalia in the Works

For the last several months, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been working vigorously with the Registrar's office and with student government to update and improve Commencement. The latest in this continuing project is the development of prototype regalia suitable for and complimentary to



our campus. Executives from Balfour and Oak Hall, two major suppliers of regalia, have now made two visits to our campus and have developed a model doctoral gown for recipients of LSU's highest earned degree. That gown features a rich LSU-purple fabric with deep purple, full-length lapels and golden LSU insignia. Those interested in a preliminary view may visit a display of the prototype in the Registrar's office. A dignified purple gown with LSU markings cut from an ecologically friendly fabric for recipients of undergraduate degrees is also in development and will be on display very soon.

## HRM to Automate Promotion and Tenure

One of the weightiest operations at LSU, both with respect to career and gravitational impact, is the promotion and tenure process, which, with its multiple hard copies and arrays of certified offprints and ad hoc crates of paper, would challenge even experienced movers, let alone lightweight academics. Having received a grant of computer time and assorted resources to facilitate the automation of the promotion and tenure process, HRM procedures ace Mimi Ruebsamen has consulted with Faculty Senate officers concerning the possibility of computer interfaces that allow for automatic arrangement of credentials into standardized "PS36" format and that permit tenure-seekers to organize and monitor the submission of letters of recommendation and other credentials.

## Facility Naming Regulations Steeped in Earning Potential

Gone are the days when persons committed to or concerned with the study of social revolution wore only breechcloths and bandanas and had few fundraising concerns beyond the replenishing of a backpack or the purchase of a Tiny Tim album. Similarly elusive are the days when the kind of meritorious poverty practiced by St. Francis or Mother Theresa could secure perpetual commemoration. Strewn on tabletops in the Office of Academic Affairs are professionally designed, multi-color flyers offering a price-list for naming opportunities in facilities dedicated to once-revolutionary areas. Designed to circumvent PS-70, which forbids commemorating living person, the flyers never use the word "buildings," which can only bear the names of those in the Elysian Fields, but refer instead to "courtyards," "multi-purpose rooms," "suites," "patios," and, in sum, anything other than what they are. Each facility-naming opportunity is associated with an evocative text description that includes a psychologically or sociologically trendy twist (for example, "the family resource room will provide a space for the campus community and their families to enjoy quality time together"). Pricing seems less dependent on floor space or on the suffering of the celebrated group than on the ability to conjure such scenes or on the income or prestige potential of the persons who will occupy the offices. Total revenue capacity for the LSU Women's Center naming bash comes in at \$2,700,000.00, with the LSU African American Cultural Center trailing at \$1,030,000.00.

## Guest Column (Continued)

for the Louisiana Transfer Associate Degree; and recent unilateral changes to the definition of tenure on the part of the ULS Board of Supervisors), our freedom to speak without the fear of retaliation becomes more important. It is difficult to accept our share of faculty responsibilities for the governance of our institutions if we do not have the protections of academic freedom to govern.

What can we do? Like the University of Delaware and the University of Minnesota Board of Regents (and other institutions across the US), we can develop policy that protects our academic freedom to participate in institutional governance. Doing so will protect our rights as officers of our institutions and give us the freedom to exercise our authority without the fear of retribution. Ultimately, our freedom to speak truth to power will enable us to affect all types of legislation for the sake of the common good.

## The Good, Bad, & Ugly

### By A. G. Monaco, Associate Vice-Chancellor For Human Resource Management

This month I present a potpourri of items that represent some good news and some not so good news.

#### The Good -

##### Sabbaticals Approved

Budget cuts have hit most institutions of higher education hard on a national level and LSU has been no exception. Sabbatical leaves have been a casualty at many institutions to serve as a cost savings measure. As many of you are aware, LSU has been cut by more than \$45 million and the impact has been substantial, but to date Sabbatical leaves have been maintained.

The Provost has consistently maintained that sabbaticals are an important part of cultivating a healthy intellectual climate for our students and a means to increase the general body of knowledge available to the residents of the state. In presenting the need for continued support of research and professional development leaves the Provost and his staff eloquently delivered the important message that faculty members who are on sabbatical leave are creating new information and techniques which are later infused into the classroom.

With the able assistance of HRM's Mimi Ruebsamen, the Provost recommended approval of 43 sabbatical leaves for the 2011-2012 academic year. This is a figure in line with our national peers and appropriate to the pressures and needs of LSU. We are proud to report that the LSU Board of Supervisors approved those recommended requests at the April 15, 2011 Board meeting.

##### Ombudsperson Services Available

Dr. Kirsten Schwehm is the University's ombudsperson and is available to assist faculty and staff with discussions regarding workplace disputes or issues. Dr. Schwehm is a highly qualified psychologist who is quite adept at providing advice and direction regarding dispute resolution and interpersonal communication. Her services are sealed in regard to confidentiality and she has a proven track record in helping employees work through a number of workplace issues. She can be reached at 8-5324 or kschwehm@lsu.edu.

#### The Bad-

I have begun to hear a number of complaints (very loudly from the always eloquent Dr. Cope) about poor service being provided to faculty members by the representatives of the firms that take part in TRSL's ORP.

One colleague complained about the general unavailability of her plan rep and being told that any information gained would have to be garnered by paying for an investment counseling service. Another colleague had to call multiple times before they got a rep on the telephone who was both uncooperative and rude before telling the faculty member that they could not help because LSU was not in her territory. Other problems rest with a lack of service whereby the vendors have not established a clear system for contacting a representative, inability to arrange meetings with representatives; and then of course there is the ubiquitous problem of- there is simply never an actual human voice on the other end of the telephone line. Additionally there is concern about the lengthy delay in the transfer of monies into the accounts of individuals.

If these complaints are familiar or you have some we have not yet heard please contact me at Amonaco@lsu.edu or contact Kevin Cope who has threatened to buzz my home in his Fokker Scourge on his next trip aloft if I don't try and improve service. To avoid such an event I have promised to do something substantial about these complaints.

Dr. Cope and I will collect the complaints and seek an appointment with Ms. Maureen Westgard, the Director of TRSL, in the hopes that she will assist us in getting our colleagues better service. This would be followed by us directly contacting corporate leaders at the various vendors to express our displeasure with the poor service and press them for an improvement.

We are hoping that pressure on two fronts will increase the level of service offered to members of the community.

#### The Ugly-

Things certainly could have been worse but in this present economy any price increase takes a toll on the University's budget. According to Shelby Conway, the HRM Director of Benefits, the following pension activities have been approved for the next fiscal year.

##### Pension Contributions

The Office of Human Resource Management has received notification from the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) about changes to the employer contributions for the TRSL Regular Plan and Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Attached is the memorandum from TRSL addressing the Employer and Employee Contribution Rates for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

##### Employer (LSU) Impact

The employer contribution rate has two components: (1) the normal cost portion of the plan, and (2) the required payment of the unfunded accrued liability (UAL). These combined components result in an employer contribution rate of 23.7 percent for FY 11- 12, an increase of 3.5 percent, from 20.2 percent in FY 10-11. (continued on page 5)

## Faculty Senate Legislative Action Slams Statewide Athletic Spending, Adjusts Re-Entry Procedures

Several measures came up for a vote at the April Faculty Senate meeting. Resolution 11-01, sponsored by Hugh Buckingham, exposed the gigantic spending on money-losing athletic programs in Louisiana's regional institutions. Passed unanimously, Buckingham's resolution condemned the dispersion of nearly \$35,000,000.00 to support intercollegiate athletics at small institution (Buckingham specifically excluded LSU from the measure, noting that the Baton Rouge athletic empire always remains on the positive side of the ledger). Another resolution, 11-06, passed by a split vote and in a revised form. Sponsored by Joan King, that measure streamlines the process by which students may reenter programs after study at other colleges or away from higher education. One motion, Resolution 11-05, designed to accelerate the implementation and promulgation of changes to curricula, failed on a divided vote. Also among measures undergoing preliminary debate were resolutions 11-08, 11-09, 11-10, and 11-11, dealing with smoking on campus, the rights and working conditions of instructors, and support for LSUnited, LSU's budding union movement. These resolutions will come up for debate and final vote at the May Senate meeting.

## FACULTY SENATE ELECTS OFFICERS



The LSU Faculty Senate held its annual elections of officers at its April meeting. For the 2011-2012 academic year, Joan King and Lawrence Rouse were elected as Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee; George Stanley won election as Secretary; Kenneth McMillin took the race for Vice-President;

and Kevin Cope was chosen as President. Paper ballots for elected Faculty Senate committees were distributed, with the tabulation of these races expected prior to the May 4th Faculty Senate meeting.

## AG Show Barn to be Demolished to Make Way for EA Sports Facility

In the high-pressure sweetheart deal of the century, EA Sports has wangled from the LSU System (via gubernatorial pressure) an allegedly symbiotic deal in which a new facility, primarily occupied by the for-profit video-gaming giant, will be constructed adjacent to the nostalgic show barn behind Parker Coliseum and alongside the Louisiana Emerging Technologies building. At its April meeting, the LSU Board of Supervisors approved an arrangement by which EA Sports, manufacturer of such high points in the digital humanities and perhaps in kinesiology as Tiger Woods Online and Madden NFL 12 as well as of such monuments in the history of high-tech computing as NHL Slapshot, will share a posh new techno-barn with CCT and assorted other tenants. The wonderful old agricultural show barn will be smashed and the animal residents located to other, greener pastures (presumably the EA sports executives, who appeared at the Board of Supervisors meeting in highly informal apparel, will lead the great exodus of swine and goats down toward the river). It is unlikely that the aforementioned animal LSU associates would be happy in the stunningly unoriginal design for this facility—a design that, coupled with the designs of the new parking structure and of the Business School extension, continues to express and confirm the complacent mentality of the management cadre. Unfortunately, a review of the EA Sports web site failed to reveal any images of the aforementioned Tiger Woods or John Madden at work in the library or laboratory.



## The Good, Bad, & Ugly (Continued)

Both components are the same for ORP participants and TRSL Regular Plan members. Therefore, choices that employees make regarding participation in the ORP or in the TRSL Regular Plan (defined benefit plan) are cost neutral to LSU because employers contribute at the same rate for both plans.

### Employee Impact

Unlike the proposal for employees in the LASERS pension plan, the employee contribution for TRSL Regular Plan members and ORP participants **will remain at 8 percent**. As you may know the people who participate in LASERS face a significant increase in their contribution rate. This increase is designed to cut state costs but no savings will be given to LSU. For employees in the TRSL- ORP, 7.9 percent of the employee's monthly salary will be transferred to the annuity carrier designated by the ORP participant (the remaining 0.1 percent of the employee contribution is retained by TRSL to cover their claims of costs associated with administering the ORP).

A little bit of sunshine will creep into this dark cloud in that an increase in employer contributions to the employee's account will take place. **On July 1, 2011, the normal cost portion of the employer contribution to ORP participant accounts will increase from 5.7029 percent to 5.9687 percent. Therefore, ORP participants will see an increase of contributions by LSU into their accounts.**

**\*\*Please note that these rates are reviewed and adopted by Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee and are solely determined by TRSL.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact the Benefits Service Center at 225-578-8200 or at [benefits.lsu.edu](mailto:benefits.lsu.edu).

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Let's hope that eventually we will be able to work Eastwood's other titles "A Fistful of Dollars" and "A Few Dollars More" into our conversations about salary and benefits.

## The Fourteen Best and Worst Corners at LSU

Corners have a bad reputation. Drug dealers loiter around them, storm drains and sewers festoon them, travelers lose their way at them. No one wants to be "cornered." The much-maligned corner and its devilishly close ally, the intersection, also serve informational, cultural, and aesthetical purposes. Corners emblemize changes in direction. They mark the points at which administrative decisions occur, whether to associate one building with another or to set a new direction by creating a new, abutting facility or to channel the interactions of colleagues. Despite the overall curvilinear character of the LSU campus, corners and intersections spangle the LSU landscape, sending their assorted messages in the peculiar code of carefully configured asphalt, concrete, and ornamentation. There might well be no better way to examine the collective mind of LSU than to look at those pavement-based synapses that connect crossing streets. Here, then, are the best seven and the worst seven corners on the big Baton Rouge campus.

### THE BEST SEVEN.

**NUMBER SEVEN: THE JOINTURE OF THE MUSIC AND THE M&DA BUILDINGS.** Since the eighteenth century, aesthetes have hoped to join the "sister arts" into the aesthetic equivalent of a unified field theory. At LSU, the work is halfway accomplished by a pair of buildings that are minimally divided by a long oak-defined semi-pedestrian street. Gently curving and softly counterpointing crescent driveway, the adjoining, festively painted Easy Streets gate is staffed by the friendliest traffic control personnel on campus (the legendary "Miss Minnie"). Qualifying as the most attractive parking lot on campus, this corner erases itself into a beautiful miasma of friendly foliage.

**NUMBER SIX: SUGAR CAULDRON AND MILITARY SCIENCE AREA, SOUTH CAMPUS AND STADIUM DRIVES.** Shimmering like an oasis in a neglected if not desert area of the campus, this soft neo-Italianate but non-populist cove gives this corner a touch of the deep bayou—of Thibodaux, Houma, and even good old Morgan City. Tender vines and an easygoing façade grace the historic sugar cauldron, which lifts an otherwise ravaged area into the world of historic romance. The adjacency of missiles and fighter aircraft in alongside the Military Science facilities redeems the sugar site from saccharine sentimentality, creating a unique blend of cane syrup and industrial chic that defines Louisiana.

**NUMBER FIVE: BUS PLATFORM AREA BEHIND THE LSU UNION.** Marking the transition between the recreational LSU Union and the no-nonsense science buildings, this curious corner delights the viewer with a puzzling but pleasing mix of giant trees, convenient transportation, new construction, social possibilities, and luckily entertaining lack of planning. On the northeast side stands a bus waiting area surmounted by a sort of miniature temple that at once evokes the Greek gods and America's miniature golf courses. Almost always vacant, this structure conjures up the same sense of sublimity and awe at the evanescence of human projects as might any ruined monument in the classical world.



**NUMBER FOUR: IT SERVICES ENTRANCE, FREY HALL.** Benefitting from an Easy Streets scheme that has pedestrianized the area and thereby concealed its character as a corner, the area adjoining the entry portal to Frey Hall evidences a degree of balance and composition seldom seen in Louisiana, where architects either run to excess or stumble into inadequacy. Carefully orchestrated flowers, shrubs, and crepe myrtle trees gradually lift the eye away from the street and from some of the disastrous designs of surrounding buildings. It is only a shame that the landscape and design scheme only seems to govern approximately one-third of the building. Were it not for the serious business conducted in the facility, the corner could easily pass as one of the best picnic areas in Tuscany. Will Brian Voss soon be dispensing Chianti?

**NUMBER THREE: PLEASANT HALL REAR PARKING AREA ON CHIMES STREET AND HIGHLAND ROAD.** Probably the least-known parking area on the campus, the rear lot for the aptly named Pleasant Hall features terrain variation like that in the Tunica Hills or Kisatchie areas. View while looking uphill along Chimes Street, the graceful tall trees seem to lead the eye into, if not a national park, at least that national culinary monument known as The Chimes. University artisans have crafted relaxing half-moon built-in benches which define an affable area of interaction between the University and the community and which highlight the offerings on Chimes Street. Spend an afternoon on one of these benches to get a firm grip not only on the culture of LSU, but on its interface with the world beyond. (continued on page 6)

## J. K. Haynes Talks Focus on Faculty and Administrator Career Planning

The LSU Faculty Senate, the Southern University Faculty Senate, the LSU Office of Research and Economic Development, and Southern University recently co-sponsored a visit to the LSU campus by noted biologist and educational leader J. K. Haynes. Haynes offered workshops on career development to budding scientists from both Southern and LSU and appeared at a forum on duty and evaluation changes during the lives of higher educational professionals. Noting that professors do the most research in early years and take on increasing institutional responsibilities during the middle and senior periods of their careers, Haynes suggested new tracks toward promotion that would include administrative and leadership training and recommended a faculty evaluation procedure that would evolve with faculty careers. Haynes genially lambasted administrators who fall short in "succession planning," the development of the next generation of in-house talent that possesses institutional memory and that understands campus culture. Haynes's provocative presentation is available in PowerPoint form in the media archive of the [Faculty Senate web site](#).



## IT to Implement New Office 365 Email Interface

LSU faculty members have received a message from IT Services reporting that email improvements are underway. Once again, Brian Voss and his A-Plus-Techno-Team have made huge strides in dealing with a blessing that is always threatening to become a curse. There is much good news: The new "Office 365" interface will (or, given the ways things go in the computer world, "should") create no problems or even learning challenges, with users barely noticing the changeover and getting plenty of warning about same; LSU will incur no cost to adopt the new email system; and the email client of Apple/Mac computers should vastly improve. There are also some danger areas: Vendor Microsoft will want to attract "eye-balls" and will ultimately reap some commercial reward; every message that contacts an LSU address will be archived; and the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors is still struggling with the LSU System with regard to the development of an email privacy policy (that project will forge ahead during the summer). Members of the LSU community should remember that the only true guarantee of privacy with respect to email and Louisiana universities is the sending and receiving of email via non-LSU addresses.

## Czech It Out: Far Delyser Clinches Car Competition

Who's to say that LSU can't compete at the national level in just about any field of endeavor? Faculty Athletic Representative Dydia Delyser possesses expertise not only on the field of play but in the auto zone. Dydia emerged as the victor in the recent New York Times Collectible Car Contest, garnering plaudits for her splendidly restored 1941 Tatra T87, the pinnacle of the Czech auto production industry. In recognition of her efforts and of her service for Czech auto design, Dydia has been invited by the Czech embassy as a VIP guest to a weekend in Washington, DC, during which weekend these cars will be honored, right along with LSU's top-notch "FAR."

## The Fourteen Best and Worst (Continued)

NUMBER TWO: VISITOR CENTER AREA, HIGHLAND AND DALRYMPLE. For once, LSU managed to do something right. Although it's not exactly clear what is done inside the Visitor Center, the Center as a phenomenon gives any miraculous apparition a run for its money. Canted at an angle to the street, the Center defies the blocky rectangularity of the LSU design mind. It invites pedestrians as well as drivers; it features light-attracting windows while eschewing wood paneling and other LSU design atrocities. The Visitor Center corner comes in second only because it is not completely independent from a design point of view. It is helped by its propinquity to the splendidly refurbished Christ the King Catholic Church (i.e., the corner needed to get a boost from the Vatican).

NUMBER ONE: LOUISIANA HOUSE, AT THE CORNER OF GOURIER AND THE ENTRANCE OF ALEX BOX STADIUM. Daringly creating a corner where no one thought one would ever exist, the Louisiana House, a sort of technologically correct dream house for Louisiana's efficient future, inserts an aristocratic driveway in the middle of an open field and thereby takes the genre of the corner to what sports commentators call "the next level." At the intersection of Alex Box Stadium, LSU's field of dreams, and the ranging University farmlands, the open-air environs of the Louisiana House seem to lift the visitor into the open spaces of America and to link the rural, the sporting, and the intellectual that would make a Thomas Jefferson or a George Washington burst into tears of enthusiasm. Colorful flowers bedeck this more-than-corner in a Della Robbia effect that would go beyond its precedent by pleasing both the connoisseur and the baseball catcher.

### THE WORST SEVEN

NUMBER SEVEN: GEOSCIENCE PARKING AREA, SOUTH CAMPUS AND TOWER. This appalling zone convinces visitors that they are about to be thrust down to the ground by one of those mountains that shoot out of the earth in the old Disney geo-epic, *Fantasia*. Too high for their context, the thundering but intellectually discharged elevations of the geoscience buildings seem to push cars out of the lot and to put the squeeze on the adjacent corner. Ornaments along this corner include one of LSU's largest rubbish collection sites (right at a prominent portal to the main campus) and a tangle of antennae that seem to point everywhere and nowhere.

NUMBER SIX: ENTRANCE, LOD COOK HOTEL AND ALUMNI CENTER. Probably the most frequently missed intersection at LSU, the entrance to the Lod Cook complex, otherwise a shining jewel in LSU's architectural tiara, falls well beneath the dignity of its function. Turning into the beautiful Cook compound via this pipsqueak of a corner is rather like turning into a not-so-dark alley or perhaps into an express carwash. Not only is the hotel invisible from this position, but the lack of adequate signing and night lighting ensures that hotel guests will end up making a u-turn at the next opportunity, Herb Vincent's Media Relations.

NUMBER FIVE: CORNER OF HIGHLAND ROAD AND SOUTH CAMPUS DRIVE. As if to undo anything that the stately French House could accomplish, LSU planners have turned this corner into a nightmare of conflicting vertical lines. Within a few arc-seconds of azimuthal view, we have upright blue recycling bins, aggregate trash boxes, cheap aluminum light posts, an oak tree, a curious concrete mini-wall or monument, a pseudo-Victorian lamp that would have alarmed even Dickens's Ghost of Christmas Past, and the usual tangle of cars. The best approach to this ugly corner is to run the other way.

NUMBER FOUR: SUPPLY BUILDING AREA, STADIUM DRIVE AND CEBALANE. It is hard to imagine that anyone could develop a more hideous point-of-convergence. With an anchor building that could pass as the world's largest bankrupt auto parts store, this corner offers a panoramic view of industrial-level mismanagement. Power lines, dilapidated University vehicles, trash, and a white compound that looks as if it could house the imprisoned ghost of Andrei Sakharov are only topped by an ADA access ramp that seems to lead directly to some unnameable industrial horror. It is rumored that master gothic villain Vincent Price may have designed this corner.

NUMBER THREE: PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING AREA. It is amazing that, only a few yards from the beautiful Sugar Cauldron zone, LSU should insert one of the leading visual disaster on the campus, the visually sprawling entrance to the Public Safety Building. Dropped at an odd distance from the road as if caught in the Wizard of Oz's tornado, this plop-down building marks a horizon on which even the majestic Coastal Studies palace looks like a shrimp lost in a tangled net. Landscaping seems to do no good as odd perspective effects make trucks look taller than trees and as a miscellany of signs jabber at the passerby to no informative effect. Time to think about changing the reputation of the tangled and dirty lower flank of the campus as LSU's architectural intestinal track.

NUMBER TWO: REAR ENTRANCE, MANSHIP CENTER (DOWNTOWN). Although not exclusively an LSU facility, the Manship Center is heavily subsidized by LSU and functions as a major source of LSU floor space. The LSU Museum of Art, for example, is garrisoned on an upper deck, while a student display space skirts its northern perimeter. LSU events routinely transpire within its walls. Unfortunately, the rear entrance to the Manship Center seems not only to express, but to scream, narrow-mindedness. Walking up to what looks like an urban penitentiary that has been reprocessed by Ikea, the visitor passes an assortment of metallic pillars that suggest entrapment in a giant cheese grater. "Entrapment" is a key word, in that exiting the Manship Theater via its back end at night can leave one fearing for one's life. If one survives the ingress or egress, there is always the paradoxically hard-core soft folk-rock bellowing from the Roux House to finalize the impression that the Manship Building, with its Tsunami dating facility, is as much a hot spot for a night out among BFFs as it is a cultural facility. The *News-letter* will send Friday evening rescue squads to evacuate the curators at the Museum of Art before this intersection heats up.

NUMBER ONE: FUTURE SITE, DIGITAL MEDIA BUILDING STADIUM AND EAST PARKER. In yet another slight to its agricultural heritage and in yet another leap aboard a fad, the University is charging ahead with plans to convert a useful barn and a verdant field into a video games parlor, all in the name of science and humanities. While one LSU System campus, the Pennington Center, will be working on ways to unglue America's youth from their seats and screens, and while another pair of LSU campuses, the LSUHSC twins, will be diagnosing the diseases produced by sedentary lifestyles, LSU will be converting a healthful farm area into an overblown and awkward facility aimed at converting soccer players into joy-stick junkies. Space and the buildings that occupy it always tell the truth—and so it is that this corner is already shrieking for help over its forthcoming decimation, even before the cement is poured.



## LUMCON Set to Move Inland

The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, has long been under the heavy influence of LSU despite positioning its headquarters in Chauvin, way down south of Thibodaux. Now a proposal is in circulation to turn over management of LUMCON's facilities to Nicholls State University, home of the John Folse Culinary Institute. LUMCON, which has a splendid but deteriorating conference facility, may need more than an aqualung to stay alive in rough economic seas. More to come on this story.



## Campus Performance Indicators Considered

The latest batch of performance indicators for the LSU campus tells a mixed story. On the plus size, the number of full-time equivalent students has made a big jump. By contrast, the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded has declined, the six-year graduation rate has held steady, research funding indicators remain level, and upper-division enrollment have held to the status quo. Most startling is the apparent suggestion that the campus is providing substantial tuition discounts to out-of-state students and even to some in-state students who receive TOPS. The trouble with performance indicators, of course, is that they seldom come packaged with interpretations and never evaluate the preparation of students or other factors that may contribute to this lackluster performance.

## LSU Spared Brunt of Low Completer Cuts; Other Institutions Less Fortunate

The low-completer purge is now history. There is no missing the fact the LSU escaped with unexpectedly light damage owing in large measure to heroic efforts by program directors and with enthusiastic support from the Office of Academic Affairs (let us always give credit when and where it is due). It is important to remember, however, that higher education involves thirty-something institutions in Louisiana and that a full understanding of where the disciplines stand can only result from a consideration of the entire menu of low-completer cuts. The long view shows the disdain of the monolingual Regents for foreign language study. LSUS has lost French and Spanish while UNO has seen cuts to those same languages—languages that once were billed as the keys to success and to the development of the future workforce. And those are only a few examples. Content-area-oriented education courses have also suffered a blow in seeming contradiction to governmental rhetoric concerning the preparation of tomorrow's workers.

## TRSL Contribution Increase Long Overdue But Wanting

After years of complaining about a system in which a 23% employer contribution rate produces a 5.7% payment to employee retirement account, the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana has announced that the aforementioned flow-through rate will increase a whopping two-tenths of one percent, to 5.97%. Who said that fair play and generosity were hard to come by?

## Lod Cook Hotel Soars Out of Recession

Longtime Alumni Association chief Charlie Roberts reports that occupancy and use at the Lod Cook hotel and adjoining conference center has soared from a previous recession-age figure of 48% to a near-industry-norm 58%. Congratulations to Charlie for superior marketing skills. Perhaps economic happy days will soon be here again?



## SEC-Funded SECAC Punts on Supporting Faculty Groups

Readers of the Newsletter know that the Southeastern Conference, (SEC), the giant sports syndicate that manages collegiate athletics at our and eleven other major institutions, has sought to raise its academic profile, a move in part attributable to the slightly embarrassing enormity of its recent television contract and the resulting volume of non-academic revenues flowing through its headquarters in Birmingham. Although the SEC initially promised to direct some of these revenues to faculty endeavors and indeed managed, for a short time, to sponsor a program in administrative training for faculty, the SEC is now turning away from rank-and-file faculty and back toward the cult of administration and celebrity. Only a few weeks ago, the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium, an organization comprised of provosts, chancellors, and presidents that receives heavy SEC funding, terminated funding and even affiliation for faculty groups (such as the [Southeastern Conference Association of Faculty Leaders](#)). The SEC, with the blessing of administrator-saturated SECAC, will now spend its money on the consolidation of its operations in Birmingham (where the SEC is billeted but where there are no SEC schools) and on a glitzy and highly funded conference featuring celebrity scholars and the usual ensemble of inside players.

## Executive Committee Debates Election Procedures With Graduate Council

Faculty Senate Resolution 10-03 requires elections for some or all of the members of the Graduate Council. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been negotiating for the last year with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Graduate School in an attempt to enforce this legislation. Cooperation from the Graduate School has been good, with the Office of Academic Affairs coming in second in the dialogue derby. Recently, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee was informed that the Graduate Council had grave misgivings about the Resolution and was disinclined to endorse the transition to democracy. In response, the Faculty Senate Executive committee opened a frank dialogue with emissaries from the Graduate Council. The Graduate council now seems to have recognized that some degree of democratic participation is needed in order to ensure representation of the full range of opinion and in order to cultivate a cadre of persons conversant in graduate education policies who are able to help the Graduate School conduct its business. The dialogue continues.

## LA Colleagues Collaborative to Address Faculty Protection Policies

One challenge to faculty governance in Louisiana is the lack of both office and expert resources in smaller or regional institutions. Man- and woman-hours and staff support are required when it comes time to develop or refine faculty-protecting policies. To respond to this deficit, the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative has appointed a committee, headed by Stephen Kuyper of Southeastern Louisiana State University, to develop template, "umbrella" policies that can be adapted to local circumstances and special campus conditions. The first example of this experiment in administrative freeware is an umbrella policy on academic freedom and tenure, which can be viewed on the LSU [Faculty Senate web site](#). Along similar lines, neglected southwest Louisiana is joining the move toward stronger faculty cooperation by reviving long-neglected and never-published grievance procedures and by consulting with LSU faculty governance officers concerning same. Under the leadership of McNeese State University Faculty Senate Vice-President [Janet Allured](#), McNeese is gradually complying with SACS and other standards with respect to faculty rights and prerogatives.

## Annual CLCU-ALFS Conference Slated for May 9

Don't forget to register for the 72nd annual conference of the Association for Louisiana Colleges and Universities, which will meet jointly with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates on Monday, May 9th, from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm. On the revolutionary theme of 'Facing Challenges Together: A Conversation between Faculty and Administration,' the event will open with a multi-campus faculty-administration panel and will include presentations by Revenue Estimating Committee member Jim Richardson and by Higher Education Commissioner Jim Purcell. Registration, which includes lunch, is only \$25.00. A registration form is included in the advertisement section of this newsletter (save the image, stretch it, and print it in larger format on your computer, then send it to the Chancellor's office).

## Tip of the Month: Badminton

As summer comes along and as folks seek out healthful but not taxing outdoor activities, the nostalgic and gentle sports of bygone eras come into view as upgradeable and updateable options. Few sports please the eye more than does Badminton, with its delicate shuttlecocks winging back and forth under summery blue skies and its mild racquets issuing gentle "whoosh" sounds in the balmy air. Entry into the game of badminton may be accomplished for but a few dollars at almost any sporting goods store. Injuries are few, fitness entry minima not excessive, and the combined exercise and relaxation benefits numerous. Neighbors in summer-simmering suburbia will be amazed as they view the resurgence of festive lawn sports and as they rediscover a racquet undertaking that is not a disguised clothing and equipment racket. Gentle badminton may also be played indoors (Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope occasionally pops a few birdies up to his cathedral ceiling). [Wikipedia](#) and other online sources teach more about this picturesque playtime prospect.



## UPC Removes Kansas in Favor of Arkansas and Mississippi State as Peer Institutions

For several years, Kansas State University has counted as a "peer" university for LSU. Alas, that middle-American institution has slipped from the list of "very high research activity" institutions. The University Planning Council ("UPC") has responded to the plucking of the Jayhawks by selecting two new peers, the University of Arkansas (the crown jewel in a state with the highest per-capita rate of pawn shops) and the Mississippi State University (affirmed by retailing experts as the home of the largest Burger King location in the south). One cannot accuse the UPC of aiming too high but perhaps one can give this panel credit for ensuring that LSU will look good by comparison.

## Louisiana Library Association to Launch Preservation Initiative



The Louisiana Library Association has initiated a statewide push to preserve, protect, defend, and promote all species of library, from the modest kindergarten bookshelf to the most comprehensive university database. Our librarians have declared a "legislative day" on May 5th and have recommended several action plans.

Stephanie Braunstein of Middleton Library is commanding the university flank of this multi-level attack. Full information is available [online](#).

## Facility Services Uplifts Nicholson Corridor


The Office of Facility Services has taken a huge step forward in the beautification of LSU by using grant dollars to improve landscaping along that otherwise stark boulevard. Get all the details and see some delightful views and prospects at <http://newsletter ofs.lsu.edu/>.

## OGB Privatization Move Draws Adverse Reaction








Faculty members both at LSU and across the state have contacted LSU Faculty Senate offices to express fear, chagrin, and outrage concerning the proposal to privatize the Office of Group Benefits (OGB), which manages all aspects of the benefits undertaking for state employees. At stake are nearly a half-billion dollars in reserve assets derived from employee premiums that could make their way either into the state general fund or to a potential plan buyer; also at stake is the long-term welfare of faithful employees and retirees who have relied on a stable, publicly supervised plan for medical, insurance, and an assortment of other needs. Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope will testify in early May before the Louisiana Senate Retirement Committee and will explain the reasons why the vast majority of public employees oppose this minimally considered privatization move.



**LSU**  
WOMEN'S CENTER



**LSU Women's Center Naming Opportunities**

	<b>Courtyard</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
The Courtyard will bring alive our commitment to community as our students gather on its beautifully landscaped, brick-paved patio.		
	<b>Entrance/Information Center</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
The Entrance will be an inviting resource area for the Women's Center's hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community guests.		
	<b>Common Area</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
The Common Area will be a cozy family room style space for guests to interact with the Women's Center staff.		
	<b>Library/Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>
The Library and Computer Lab will be a comfortably furnished, state-of-the-art computer lab area for homework, workshops, and group counseling. The library, which houses over 2,000 books, will provide students a supportive atmosphere for studying, research, reading, and writing.		
	<b>Multi-Purpose Room</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
The Multi-Purpose Room will be a general use space, outfitted with a full array of audio-visual equipment, where students, faculty, staff, and community guests can host workshops, trainings, meeting and programs.		
	<b>Family Resource Room</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
The Family Resource Room will provide a space for the campus community and their families to enjoy quality time together. The space contains a large play room, two diaper changing areas, a private room for mothers that need to breast feed or pump.		
	<b>Conference Room</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
The Conference Room will provide a formal yet intimate setting to conduct meetings and conferences with a full range of technological amenities.		
	<b>Office Suite</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
The Office Suite is a specially designed office space for the Director of the Women's Center, the University Council on Women, and a Graduate Assistant. Additionally, there is a Scholar-in-Residence research space.		
	<b>Patio</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
The Patio will be filled with inviting benches where students, faculty, staff, and community guests can gather various outdoor activities such as jogging, picnics, and small ceremonies.		
	<b>LSU Women's Center</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

Join us for HEIST

The unveiling of a coveted masterpiece by a notorious artist is set to debut at the LSU Museum of Art, Baton Rouge's unique venue for 21st century works, and you're invited!

Time: 7:00 pm  
Date: Tuesday May 3 OR  
Wednesday May 4  
Place: Shaw Center for the Arts (utilizing multiple floors)

To view our digital invitation, visit [www.swinepalace.org](http://www.swinepalace.org)

Tickets and cameo details at <http://tinyurl.com/HEISTsp>.

72<sup>nd</sup> Annual CLCU Conference  
May 9, 2011  
Lod Cook Alumni Center  
LSU Campus  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana



To complete registration, please complete this form and mail with registration fee on or before Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

College/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE: \$25 (lunch provided)

Please make check payable to Louisiana State University with CLCU in the memo.

Mail to:

Office of the Chancellor  
Louisiana State University  
156 Thomas Boyd Hall  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Guest Speaker  
Mr. Leo Honeycutt - Evening with Great Authors

Time: 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
Date: Monday May 2  
Place: LSU Energy, Coast & Environment Building  
Extra: Book signing and auction  
Tickets: General Public - \$30  
LSU Students - \$10



LSU School of Music - Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 7

Place: LSU Student Union Theater

Time: 7:30pm

Date: May 5th, 2011

Tickets: LSU Faculty/Staff - \$19

LSU Students: Free

For more information, please call 578-5128 or visit [www.music.lsu.edu](http://www.music.lsu.edu)

Published by [The LSU Faculty Senate](#)

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